

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 121, Applicants provisionally elect to prosecute invention I (claims 16-29 and 36-41 drawn to a lithographic apparatus). This provisional election is made with traverse.

Applicants would like to draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that claims 30 and 31 are missing in the restriction requirement. Applicants note that claims 30 and 31 are drawn to a lithographic apparatus and thus should be included in group I invention. Consequently, Applicants respectfully request that claims 30 and 31 be included in invention I.

Because Invention II comprises only four claims (claims 32-35 drawn to a method of maintaining a sealing member), Applicants submit that the examination of an additional four claims would not present an additional burden for the Examiner to search.

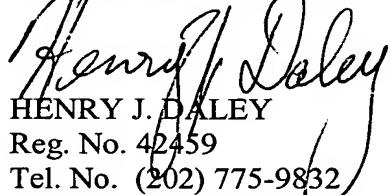
Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that inventions I and II be rejoined and all pending claims 16-41 be examined.

Early and favorable consideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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